

Term 4
Linguistics
Lesson 4

Sociolinguistics

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What is Applied Linguistics?

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- Using theoretical language knowledge to solve real-world language-related problems.

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- Using theoretical language knowledge to solve real-world language-related problems.
- **Includes fields like:**
Language teaching, translation, forensics,
speech therapy, neurolinguistics, sociolinguistics
....

Today's focus: Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics is "the study of the relationship between language and society, examining how language varies and changes in social groups"

(Wardhaugh & Fuller, 2015).

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Sociolinguistics

It is concerned with how social factors like **class**, **gender**, **age**, and **ethnicity** influence language.

Historical Development of Sociolinguistics

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- Influential early works:
 - Labov (1966) ***The Social Stratification of English in New York City***
 - Trudgill (1974) ***The Social Differentiation of English in Norwich***

Historical Development of Sociolinguistics

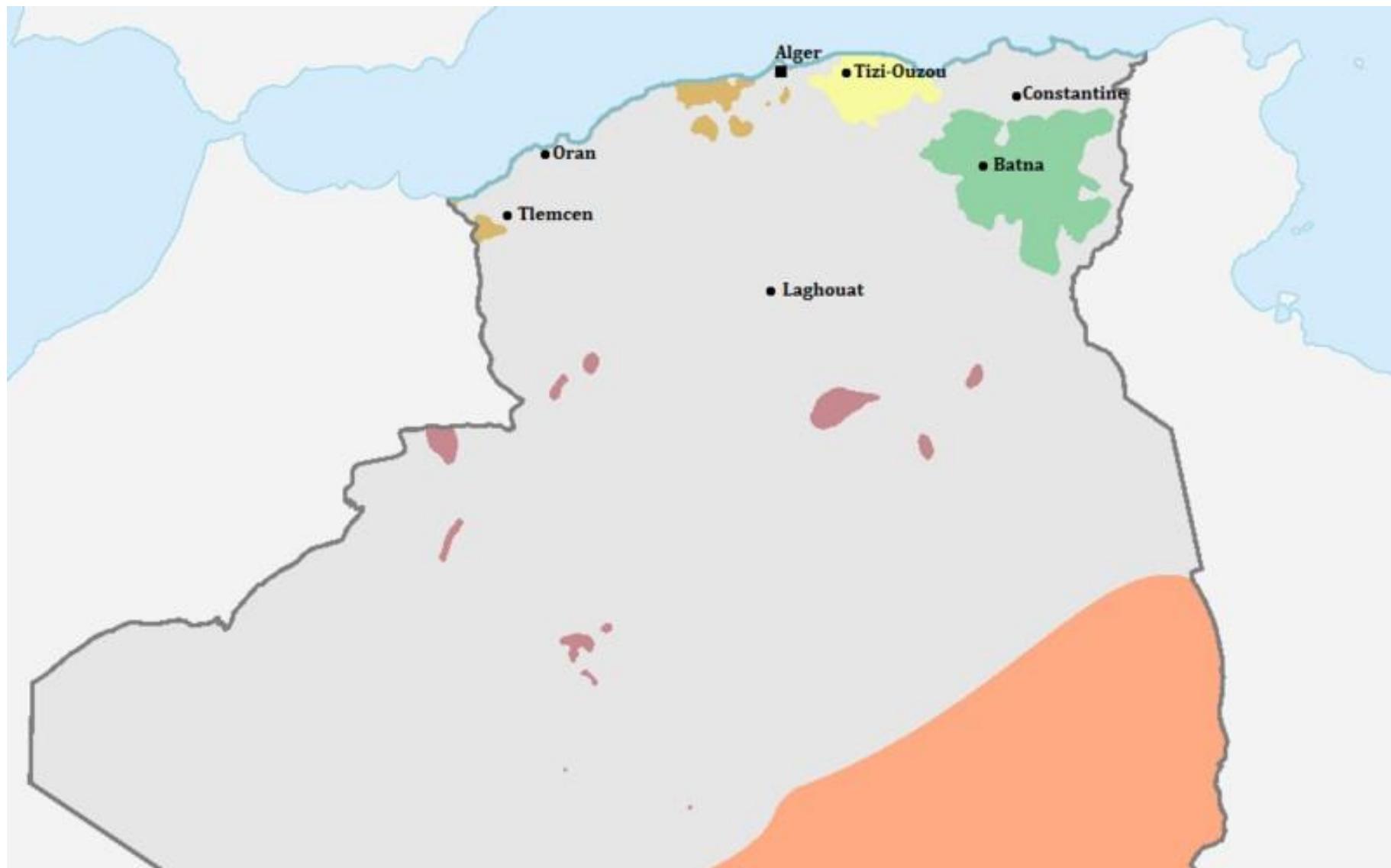
- Emerged in the 1960s within applied linguistics
- Influential early works:
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 - Trudgill (1974) ***The Social Differentiation of English in Norwich***
- Integrates **linguistics, sociology, and anthropology**

Sociolinguistics Language Variation

Sociolinguistics is particularly interested in the variation of regional and social dialects and accents.

(Labov, 1972)

Language variation in Algeria



Sociolinguistics Language Variation

There are a couple of terms that need to be understood when studying/ research language variation.

For example: Dialect, Accent, Pidgin, and Creole

Dialect vs. Accent

DIALECT

A variety of a language with
distinct **vocabulary**, **grammar**,
and **pronunciation**

Example:

Algerian Arabic (Darija) vs.
Egyptian Arabic

Dialect vs. Accent

DIALECT

A variety of a language with distinct **vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation**

Example:

Algerian Arabic (Darija) vs. Egyptian Arabic

ACCENT

A way of **pronouncing words** that shows a person's regional or social background

Example:

Algiers accent vs. Constantine accent

Dialect vs. Accent

DIALECT



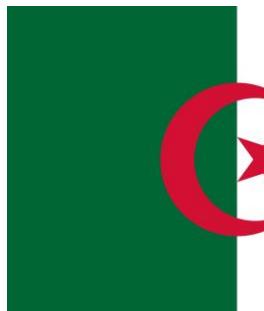
Algerian Arabic: "Wesh rak?"



Egyptian Arabic: "Ezayak?"

Dialect vs. Accent

DIALECT



Algerian Arabic: "Wesh rak?"



Egyptian Arabic: "Ezayak?"

ACCENT



Algiers accent "weš rak?"



Constantine accent "waš rak?"

Pidgin VS. Creole

Pidgin

- A simplified contact language for basic communication between groups with no common language.
- A pidgin is a **simplified mixed language with no native speakers**.

Creole

- “A creole is a stable, fully developed natural language that originates from a pidgin and becomes the first language of a community.”

(Holm, 2000)

Pidgin VS. Creole

Pidgin

Example:

“The Nigerian Pidgin English”

A mix of English and local languages in Nigeria that is not a native language of any people.

“How you dey?” = “How are you?”

Creole

Example:

“Jamaican Creole (Patois)”

A pidgin (mix of English and western African languages) that has become the native language in Jamaica.

“Mi a go a di market.” = “I’m going to the market.”

Register

- Formal/informal language depending on context

Code-switching

- The practice of alternating between two or more languages or varieties of language in conversation.

Example:

- "I told the kids, "no mas" TV tonight!" Or, "I told the kids no more TV tonight!"
- "I swear Rani tired today"

Issues in Sociolinguistic Research

- **Language & identity** (e.g., *the use of a foreign language to express global identity*)
- **Multilingualism** (e.g., *In Switzerland, citizens switch between German, French, Italian, and Romansh*)
- **Language attitudes & ideologies** (e.g., *In post-colonial Algeria, some view French as a symbol of colonial oppression*)
- **Language policy & planning** (e.g., *Algeria introducing English to primary schools*)
- **Language & gender** (e.g., *In Western cultures, studies show women tend to use more standard language forms than men*)

Contributions of Sociolinguistics

- Reveals how power and inequality affect language use
- Supports inclusive language education policies
- Informs language preservation and revitalization
- Helps design effective language curricula in multilingual contexts